



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS  
Washington, D.C. 20231  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/960,368	09/24/2001	Helen Ann Biddiscombe	BIDD3001D/JDB	6339

23364 7590 03/28/2003

BACON & THOMAS, PLLC  
625 SLATERS LANE  
FOURTH FLOOR  
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314

EXAMINER

ZIRKER, DANIEL R

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

1771

DATE MAILED: 03/28/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

AS-7

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

Applicant(s)

Examiner

Group Art Unit

—The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet beneath the correspondence address—

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE -3- MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, such period shall, by default, expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 2/25/03
- ☒ This action is **FINAL**.
- ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, **prosecution as to the merits is closed** in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 1 1; 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- ☒ Claim(s) 13-36 is/are pending in the application.
- Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- ☒ Claim(s) 13-36 is/are rejected.
- ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction or election requirement

## Application Papers

- ☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is ☐ approved ☐ disapproved.
- ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to by the Examiner
- ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 (a)-(d)

- ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 (a)-(d).
- ☐ All ☐ Some\* ☐ None of the:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
- ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a))

\*Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_

## Attachment(s)

- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Interview Summary, PTO-413
- ☐ Notice of Reference(s) Cited, PTO-892
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948
- ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Office Action Summary

Art Unit 1771

1. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

2. Claims 13-36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over WO -742 taken either individually, or for claims 17-20 and 32 in view of Crighton et al. -601, and for claims 21-24, 27 and 33 in view of Carespodì, substantially for the reasons set forth in paragraph No. 5 of Paper No. 4, together with the following additional observations. Initially it is further noted that for claims 13-20, 25, 26, 28-32 and 34-36 it is noted that the Carespodì reference is also relied upon as evidence of the state of the art, with both it and WO -742 relating to very similar laminated structures employing polymeric films made from, e.g. oriented polypropylene. The Examiner further notes that with respect to the rejection based upon WO -742 taken individually, it is believed that curling resistance is either inherent in the reference films such as those shown at page 4, bottom paragraph or an obvious optimization to one of ordinary skill in this technologically sophisticated art, motivated by the laminated film art's desire to prevent harmful curling. With respect to applicant's remarks, his position (Response, page 7, top paragraph) that even if Carespodì is "only concerned with curl which arises when the laminate is subject to heat" would <sup>not</sup> eliminate the reference even if true. That is, it is again noted that both WO -742 and Carespodì relate to very

Art Unit 1771

similar laminated polymeric structures and that heat curl is clearly a major problem in the film art. With respect to applicant's contentions (Response, page 7, second and third complete paragraphs) that Carespodì "reduces curl in his laminate by applying identical layers on both sides of his base film to thereby create a balanced structure"<sup>this</sup> ignores the fact that applicant's claims read upon such a balanced structure. With respect to applicant's remarks (Response, paragraph bridging pages 7 and 8) that Carespodì does not disclose or suggest the specific range of ratios involving the thickness of the various layers the Examiner can only note that at most this is an obvious modification to one of ordinary skill in the art. Finally, applicant's remarks set forth (Response, page 8, bottom paragraph) involving his comparison are neither made against the closest prior art and also are believed to be what one of ordinary skill in the art would expect.

3. Claim 28 is again rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as claiming the same invention as that of claim 8 of prior U.S. Patent No. 6,306,490B1. This is a double patenting rejection which applicant has not discussed or even mentioned in his response.

4. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new grounds of rejection. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See M.P.E.P. § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time

Art Unit 1771

policy as set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a). The practice of automatically extending the shortened statutory period an additional month upon the filing of a timely first response to a final rejection has been discontinued by the Office. See 1021 TMOG 35.

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR RESPONSE TO THIS FINAL ACTION IS SET TO EXPIRE THREE MONTHS FROM THE DATE OF THIS ACTION. IN THE EVENT A FIRST RESPONSE IS FILED WITHIN TWO MONTHS OF THE MAILING DATE OF THIS FINAL ACTION AND THE ADVISORY ACTION IS NOT MAILED UNTIL AFTER THE END OF THE THREE-MONTH SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD, THEN THE SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD WILL EXPIRE ON THE DATE THE ADVISORY ACTION IS MAILED, AND ANY EXTENSION FEE PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) WILL BE CALCULATED FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THE ADVISORY ACTION. IN NO EVENT WILL THE STATUTORY PERIOD FOR RESPONSE EXPIRE LATER THAN SIX MONTHS FROM THE DATE OF THIS FINAL ACTION.

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Daniel Zirker whose telephone number is (703) 308-0031. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday from 8:30 A.M. to 6:00 P.M. The examiner can also be reached on alternate Fridays.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Terrel Morris, can be

Serial No. 09/960,368

-5-

Art Unit 1771

reached on (703) 308-2414. The fax phone number for this Group is (703) 872-9310.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0661.

Dzirker:cdc

March 27, 2003

DANIEL ZIRKER  
PRIMARY EXAMINER  
GROUP 1800-  
1700

*Daniel Zinker*